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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/24/2034

TAGS: [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AM](#)

SUBJECT: (SBU) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS OR  
GROUPS POSING A POLITICAL THREAT TO ARMENIAN PRESIDENT  
SARGSIAN (C-RE9-01647)

Classified By: MICHAEL P. OWENS, ACTING DIR, INR/OPS. REASON: 1.4(C).

¶1. (S) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER  
INSIGHTS POST CAN PROVIDE ON INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WHO POSE A  
POLITICAL THREAT TO PRESIDENT SARGSIAN'S ADMINISTRATION.  
INFORMATION ON THEIR PERSONAL OR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
KEY ARMENIAN FIGURES AND/OR PRESIDENT SARGSIAN IS OF  
PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ANALYSTS. ADDITIONAL REPORTING  
COVERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WOULD BE GREATLY  
APPRECIATED, AS TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT.

¶A. (C) WHAT IS FORMER PRESIDENT KOCHARIAN'S GOAL IN HIS  
REPORTED BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING? WHICH OFFICIALS ARE  
LOYAL TO KOCHARIAN AND WHICH HAVE TRANSFERRED LOYALTY TO  
PRESIDENT SARGSIAN? HOW DOES POST CHARACTERIZE THE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KOCHARIAN AND PRESIDENT SARGSIAN:  
CONTENTIOUS OR STILL COOPERATIVE?

¶B. (C) WHAT IS HEAD OF THE PROSPEROUS ARMENIA PARTY GAGIK  
TSARUKIAN'S CURRENT INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT? IS HE STILL  
BACKING FORMER PRESIDENT KOCHARIAN?

¶C. (C) HOW DO ARMENIAN OLIGARCHS AND BUSINESSMEN VIEW THE  
POSSIBILITY OF OPENING THE BORDER WITH TURKEY? HOW ARE  
ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES AFFECTING TAX ISSUES AND POLICE  
SERVICE?

¶D. (C) WHAT IS THE NATURE OF RULE OF LAW PARTY HEAD ARTUR  
BAGHDASARIAN'S, RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT SARGSIAN? WHAT  
ROLE, IF ANY, DOES BAGHDASARIAN HAVE IN POLICYMAKING? DOES  
HE HAVE ANY CONSTITUENCY LEFT AMONG THE PUBLIC AND WHAT ARE  
HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

¶E. (C) AS AN OPPOSITION STRUCTURE, IS THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS (ANC) WELL-ORGANIZED AND STRONG ENOUGH TO ENDURE  
EVEN IF ITS LEADER, LEVON TER-PETROSSIAN (LTP), RETURNED TO  
SECLUSION? HOW STRONG IS LTP'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BASE.

¶F. (C) PLEASE CHARACTERIZE LTP'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ARMENIAN  
ELITES, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT.

¶G. (C) PLEASE CHARACTERIZE THE ROLE OF DASHNAKS AS AN  
OPPOSITION STRUCTURE, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH KEY  
ARMENIAN ELITES, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT.

¶2. (U) PLEASE CITE C-RE9-01647 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF  
REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.  
CLINTON